

AA – Spiritual Not Religious

“... God as we understood Him ...” (Steps 3 & 11) = NO Evangelism

“‘PASS IT ON’ - *The Story of Bill Wilson (AA Co-Founder) and How the A.A. Message Reached the World*” (pages 246 & 247)

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“knotty problems ... how to describe A.A.’s relationship to the Oxford Group. By the time the article was written (Jack Alexander’s Saturday Evening Post article, “A Member’s Eye View”), ... A.A. had become independent and separate from the Oxford Group in both New York and Ohio ... Bill understandably wanted to avoid being associated with anything controversial ... In addition, he wanted A.A. to appeal to all religions and societies. Bill wrote to Alexander: ‘I would give anything if you could avoid mentioning the matter [A.A.’s connection with the Oxford Group] at all.’ ... an outgrowth of the Washingtonian Movement. “Bill saw Traditions ten and five as AA’s safeguards against the Washingtonian’s fate.” (p. 367)

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (pgs. 178 & 9):

“... When the Washingtonians became temperance crusaders, within a very few years they had completely lost their effectiveness in helping alcoholics. As we surveyed the wreck of that movement, early A.A. members resolved to keep our Society out of public controversy. Thus was laid the cornerstone for Tradition Ten: “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues (i.e. Religion); hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

